

Spring 2015

THE ENGINEERING INNOVATION CENTRE Newsletter



GOVERNMENT PLEDGES OVER £10 MILLION FOR UCLAN ENGINEERING CENTRE



Councillor Peter Rankin, Leader of Preston City Council, said:

"This is a significant development in the continuing success story of the University. A successful university is crucial for Preston. We now have an opportunity to create a lasting legacy for future generations of students, academics, local people and for the City as a whole."



The EIC aims to reinstate Lancashire's role as the national centre for advanced manufacturing, as well as increasing the number of women in the engineering industry. The EIC will capitalise on the location of the University at the centre of one of the most intensive engineering and manufacturing areas in the UK, to create an internationally competitive facility, that will bring together the region's expertise from within academia and industry. The Centre will be equipped to the highest standard with technology demonstration areas and specialist work areas to create an integrated space for teaching, research and knowledge exchange.

The University of Central Lancashire (UCLan) has been awarded more than £10 million from the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership towards its flagship Engineering Innovation Centre (EIC) due to open in 2018.

Employment Minister Esther McVey MP announced the funding during a recent visit to UCLan. The £10.5 million cash injection builds upon a £5m award from HEFCE for infrastructure improvements to STEM teaching in the UK, taking the overall funding pot for the state-of-the-art engineering facility to over £30 million.

The UCLan EIC has been identified as a signature project within the Growth Deal and the Lancashire Strategic Economic Plan, which sets out the county's growth plans for the next 10 years, and will directly accelerate the delivery of a range of key objectives including reclaiming Lancashire's role as a national centre for advanced manufacturing and ensuring that local skills reflect the social and economic needs of the area.

Esther McVey MP who visited UCLan to announce the funding said: "This money will give Lancashire an extra boost as one of the major engineering and manufacturing areas in the UK. It'll support more opportunities

for local people, including women who might be considering careers in traditionally dominated industries like these, as part of the Government's #notjustforboys campaign."

Rob Wallace, Dean of the School of Computing, Engineering and Physical Sciences, commented that "The EIC will help to address this demand and work with local schools and colleges to encourage more students to take up engineering as an attractive career option. We are particularly targeting women who are vastly under-represented in this field."

Shaping the future of engineering skills development within the North West

www.uclan.ac.uk/eic
Email eic@uclan.ac.uk #UCLanEIC



New Director of the EIC

On 1st February Frank Hayden, Professor of Advanced Manufacturing and Director of the EIC, took up his UCLan role.

Frank is one of Europe's leading industrialists, having led the strategic and operational transformation of a number of high-technology businesses, including Land Rover, BMW, Airbus, BAE Systems and Rolls-Royce.

He has led the manufacturing launch of a number of iconic and world-leading products, including the Land Rover Freelander, BMW Mini, Airbus A380 Superjumbo, F-35 Joint Strike Fighter and Rolls-Royce Trent aircraft engines.

Mark Hendrick,
MP for Preston, said:

"The University has unveiled plans which are both bold and imaginative. I would urge my constituents and all stakeholders to take part in the public consultation process and help shape this redevelopment into a shared vision that is beneficial to citizens and the student population."



Babs Murphy, Chief Executive of the North & Western Lancashire Chamber of Commerce, said the University's plans would complement the redevelopment work already achieved within the City: "The redevelopment of Preston's main gateways is vital and UCLan is central to more than one of them. The economic role played by an expanded and strengthened University will aid our regeneration efforts by bolstering the local economy and underpinning long-term sustainable economic growth."

UCLAN ANNOUNCES £200 MILLION MASTERPLAN

The University of Central Lancashire (UCLan) recently unveiled far-reaching development plans which will transform its Preston campus.

UCLan's vision, known as the Masterplan, is to create a unified, sustainable and welcoming campus which will enhance the experience for all those visiting the University and Preston in general over the next 10 years.

The new campus aims to integrate seamlessly with the rest of the City, benefitting current and future generations of students, staff, visitors and the wider community.

Subject to planning approval, the first stage of the development will see the construction of the £30 million-plus Engineering Innovation Centre (EIC) commencing in early 2016.

UCLan's Vice-Chancellor Professor Gerry Kelleher said: "Over the coming decade we will invest in the region of £200 million to create a world-class campus environment which blends new facilities with the creation of public, green spaces to encourage people from all over the City to visit and enjoy the campus."

"Future investments like the Engineering Innovation Centre will reflect that goal, helping to create jobs, kick-start regeneration and attract inward investment into the City."

For further details on the Masterplan and how you can be involved please visit www.uclan.ac.uk/masterplan

Feedback from the EIC launch event

We were delighted with the feedback we received at the EIC launch event in November. Your responses have enabled us to understand what you need from both a dynamic workforce and a collaborative partnership with UCLan.

Here are some of the key highlights from these discussions.

Question 1: What would the ideal engineering graduate be like?

PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES

Passionate / a passion for the discipline



Challenges and questions



Creative



QUALITIES

Team worker / team player



Employable



Realistic work expectations



HARD SKILLS

Communication skills



Numeracy skills



Project management and time management skills



Question 2: How can we work collaboratively to turn this vision into a reality?

THROUGH WORK EXPERIENCE

Placements / work experience / internships



THROUGH EDUCATION

Industry specialists to support teaching such as guest lecturers or industrial mentors



Link students and industry through live projects from industry perspective



Motivate / stimulate demand for young people (primary school age) to go into engineering



INDUSTRY / SME'S PERSPECTIVE

Identify the key challenges that industry sectors face / respond to industry needs



Share experience / support leveraging of raising funds



For more detailed information please visit www.uclan.ac.uk/eic

Councillor Jennifer Mein, Leader of Lancashire County Council, said: "The University's plans reflect the county council's vision for an attractive, well-connected and walkable city, which is easy to get around using all modes of transport. Our engineers have been working alongside the University for several months over these proposed changes to the Adelphi roundabout and we believe we have developed a solution which will cater for everyone, including walkers and cyclists or those using buses and cars."

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